

Sweet Marriages

Here are some divinely revealed, time-tested attitudes that are guaranteed to sweeten your marriage:

First, approach your spouse as a teammate, not as a rival competitor. You and your spouse are joined together as “one flesh” (Genesis 2:18-24).

Second, express appreciation to your spouse, not just negativity. You and your spouse are attractive and lovely to look upon (Song of Solomon 4:1-7; 5:9-16).

Third, offer your spouse your body completely, don't hold back. You and your spouse should give each other the physical “due” you both desire (1 Corinthians 7:1-4; Proverbs 5:15-19).

Finally, give honor and respect to your spouse, not contempt. Wives give your husbands respect and husbands give your wives understanding (Ephesians 5:33; 1 Peter 3:7). - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- If you hold your religion lightly, you are likely to let it slip.
- A lie has no legs. It requires other lies to support it.
- Voluntary slavery to sin is some people's idea of personal liberty.
- Courage is not the absence of fear, but the conquest of it.
- Walk in wisdom redeeming the time.

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Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

An Honest and Good Heart

And that in the good ground, these are such as in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, hold it fast, and bring forth fruit with patience.

- Luke 8:15 -

When Jesus spoke the well-known parable of the Sower in Luke 8, he said the seed of the word of God falls on an “honest and good heart” and produces good fruit. In other words, the “honest and good heart” hears the word of God and obeys it. So, I ask you, “What is an honest and good heart?”

We typically associate “honesty” with telling the truth; that is, not telling a lie, not cheating, not stealing, etc. But, “honesty” also involves what is fair, right, and sincere. It is a straightforward, frank, and open approach to truth. Do you know that you can tell the truth about things and still not have an “honest and good heart”? You can tell the truth to others, but still not be honest and sincere about the truth that is presented to you.

We learn about the “honest and good heart” in the parable of the Sower (Luke 8:15). The parallel passages help us to understand that Jesus is talking about one’s attitude toward receiving the word of God (see Matthew 13:23 and Mark 4:20). Am I an honest person

when it comes to receiving God’s word? Are you an honest person when it comes to receiving God’s word?

Consider four truths about an “honest and good heart” that come from Luke 8:15 and its parallel passages. Jesus said that the “honest and good heart” is:

- **An Attentive Heart** – “hear the word and accept it”. Are you attentive when you receive the word of God, or does your mind wander?
- **A Discerning Heart** – “and understands it”. Are you understanding of what you receive, or do you simply pass over it without comprehending it?
- **A Convicted Heart** – “hold it fast...”. Are you going to hold on to the truths you receive from God’s word, or will you let them slip from your grasp?
- **A Productive Heart** – “bring forth fruit with patience...”. Are you going to produce the fruit of obedience when you receive the word of God, or do you plan to do nothing with it?

Not everyone has an “honest and good heart”. During Jesus’ earthly ministry, he faced those who were dishonest when it came to receiving his words (Matthew 21:25-27; John 7:46-47; 9:27; 10:24-25;

11:45-48; 12:10-11). Peter and John also faced those who were dishonest (Acts 4:16-17). Stephen faced those who were dishonest (Acts 7:57) and Paul faced those who were dishonest (Acts 14:2-4; 19:9; 24:25; 26:28).

What are the signs or evidence of an “honest and good heart”? First, it seeks truth in all matters of life (1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12). Second, it investigates before making a decision (Acts 17:11; Philippians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; Heb. 5:14; 1 Jn. 4:1). Third, it desires harmony with what is written in the Bible (Acts 10:33; 18:26). Fourth, it shows a willingness to get help in understanding God’s word (Acts 8:30-31; 18:26). Fifth, it repents as soon as it is convicted of wrong (Acts 2:37,38,41). Sixth, it obeys divine commands immediately (Acts 2:41; 16:33; 22:10; 26:19; Gal. 1:16). Lastly, it walks daily in the light of truth and practices the word of God (John 15:8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-2; Colossians 1:10; James 2:22-25; 2 John 4; 3 John 3).

Waiting to change your life until you are on your death bed is risky business. Why not have an “honest and good heart” now that will make the necessary changes today before it’s too late! Friend, do you have an “honest and good heart”? - Chris Reeves